

In response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2002, in the above-identified U.S. Patent application, please amend as follows:

In the Claims:¹

Please amend product claims 1, 6, and 7; and method claims 34 and 46, to read as follows:

a1
1. A chimeric polypeptide comprising:
a virus coat polypeptide sequence, wherein the virus is an immunodeficiency virus selected from the group consisting of HIV, SIV, FIV, and FeLV, and a viral receptor polypeptide sequence, wherein the virus coat polypeptide sequence and the receptor polypeptide sequence are each linked to a spacer consisting of an amino acid sequence of sufficient length to allow the virus coat polypeptide sequence and the viral receptor polypeptide sequence to form a folded complex.

a2
6. The chimeric polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the HIV is HIV-1 or HIV-2.

7. The chimeric polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the HIV is a macrophage tropic or a lymphocyte tropic HIV.

Amended Method Claims to be Rejoined

a3
34. A method for producing an antibody that binds to the chimeric polypeptide of claim 1, comprising administering the chimeric polypeptide of claim 1 to a subject in an amount sufficient for the subject to produce antibody to the chimeric polypeptide of claim 1.

46. A method for identifying an agent that inhibits an interaction between a virus and a virus co-receptor comprising the steps of:

a4
cont'd.
¹ Consistent with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.121, a marked up version of the amended claims is contained in Appendix A hereof; a clean copy of all pending claims is contained in Appendix B hereof. Consistent with the holding of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, et al., 535 U.S. ____ (2002), decided May 28, 2002, any amendments herein that hereafter are deemed to be narrowing amendments by a court of competent jurisdiction in a final unappealed or unappealable decision, are not intended to relinquish any scope of equivalents unforeseeable at the time of this amendment or that relate to aspects of the invention having only a peripheral relation to the basis for the amendment.

(a) contacting the chimeric polypeptide of claim 1 with a virus co-receptor under conditions allowing the chimeric polypeptide and the co-receptor to bind, in the presence and absence of a test agent; and

94 contd.

(b) detecting binding in the presence and absence of the test agent, wherein decreased binding in the presence of the test agent thereby identifies an agent that inhibits binding between the virus and the virus co-receptor.

Please cancel claims ~~4, 5 and 17.~~